

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 497

Introduced by Assembly Member Block

February 24, 2009

An act to amend Section 21058 of the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 497, as introduced, Block. Vehicles: high-occupancy vehicle lanes: used by physicians.

Existing law authorizes a physician when traveling in response to an emergency call to be exempt from certain speed limit requirements, as specified, if the vehicle being used by the physician displays an insigne approved by the Department of Motor Vehicles indicating that the vehicle is owned by a licensed physician.

Existing law permits the Department of Transportation and local authorities, with respect to highways under their respective jurisdictions, to authorize exclusive use of highway lanes for a high-occupancy vehicle (HOV).

This bill would permit a physician to travel in HOV lanes, when traveling in response to an emergency call, regardless of the number of occupants in the vehicle, if that physician displays the insigne approved by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 21058 of the Vehicle Code is amended
2 to read:
3 21058. A physician traveling in response to an emergency call
4 shall be exempt from ~~the provisions of~~ Sections 21655.5, 22351,
5 and 22352 if the vehicle so used by ~~him~~ *the physician* displays an
6 insigne approved by the department indicating that the vehicle is
7 owned by a licensed physician. The provisions of this section do
8 not relieve the driver of the vehicle from the duty to drive with
9 due regard for the safety of all persons using the highway, nor
10 protect the driver from the consequences of an arbitrary exercise
11 of the privileges of this section.

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